MULLURKAYAL WATER STORAGE SCHEME

91. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the area comprised in the Mullurkayal Water Storage Scheme this year;

(*b*) the kinds of land over which water was stored, *viz.*, Mundakan, Viruppu, Puncha, Kuttadan, Kole and waste lands, if any;

(*c*) the approximate amount the Government may have to disburse as compensation this year;

(*d*) the date on the basis on which the damages are assessed by Government?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) 608.07 acres.

(*b*) Puncha, kole and kuttadan lands are included in the above extent; but the registry in the settlement register for all the kinds of these lands is only as Puncha.

(*c*) The compensation to be disbursed this year will be approximately Rs.25,000.

(*d*) The principle of assessing compensation for temporary dispossession of lands followed in such cases is that the party should receive the value of that, of which he is temporarily dispossessed.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* With reference to answer (*b*) may I know what criterion the Government are following in assessing the income of these properties. You see that all these properties are in the settlement register registered as puncha lands and the Government now say that it includes puncha kole and kuttadan lands also. My question is in assessing the income from these properties, what is the criterion they follow, or what is the basis on which they calculate the income?

Mr. President: Is that not answered in (*d*).

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* That is not all.

Mr. President: The principle of compensation is laid down in answer to (*d*).

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Whatever may be the registry, whether puncha, kole or kuttadan or anything, that is not the criterion; it is the yield of the land that is assessed.

Mr. P. P. Devassy *(Trichur-South):* What exactly is meant in sub-division (d) by the words "the value of that, of which he is temporarily dispossessed?"

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is the yield that is taken into consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it the paddy yield only?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Nothing else? What about straw?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Straw also, if the owner is able to cultivate and is dispossessed, that is also a matter for consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Are we to take it, Sir, that if the land is cultivated or not, compensation is based upon the principal yield that he would have got if he had raised the crops; is that the position of the Government?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The question of straw is not taken into account? Is that the position?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In Kuttadan, there is no question of straw at all?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I am not upon kuttadan, I am upon the general question, whether it is puncha, kole or kuttadan.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It goes in reduction of the expenses.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Does the Government compute, Sir, the cost of cultivation as being equal to the cost of straw?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Not as equal to it. It is taken into consideration for deducting the expenses.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* May I know what particular method is adopted in ascertaining the total yield of the land?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* By looking at the crop.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Are not the Government aware that in this case there would be no crops standing?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We have got the registered documents, we refer to the pattam-chits and the reports of the village officers who have seen the crops in previous years.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Do you take the average of a number of years or only the yield of the previous or any particular year?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *Diwan Peishkar):* We take the average.

Mr. Joseph Pettah *(Adur):* Of how many years, please?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is not exactly possible to say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With reference to answer (*a*) 608·07 acres—may I know whether that is not the area of lands submerged, completely submerged?

Mr A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the Government is not aware that other areas than these 608·07 acres are affected by this submersion?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is difference of opinion with reference to that. According to us, they have not been affected to any extent to cause damages.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is it the position of the Government that second crop lands, mundakan lands, by the side of these submerged areas are not affected by this submersion.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Either the harvest was over or was about to take place, so that by the submersion there was no damage at all.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* According to the Government, what is the time at which the mundakan crop is harvested?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* That depends upon the time the cultivation is started. In some years, it is earlier and in some years it is late.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know the earliest period and the latest period of mundakan harvest in this area?

Mr. President: Order, order. This is developing into a regular cross-examination.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What else sir, are we here for during this question hour especially when the Hon'ble Government Member is not giving straight answers?

Mr. President: There are different methods of eliciting information from the Government. The methods of the Court are not the methods to be adopted in a Legislature.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I would try to adjust and continue my question. What is the earliest period of time when mundakan crop is harvested?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It varies from place to place.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* We are on the Mullurkayal area. Please remember that.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In Mullurkayal area, it begins towards the second week of Vrischigam.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The time of raising crops?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I think it is in the month of Chingam.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* And Vrischigam is the harvest period?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know when were the pumping operations commenced this year?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Towards the end of December.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Which Malayalam month, please, because we were talking of Malayalam months before.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It must be towards the end of Dhanu.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether there are complaints from the parties affected regarding the compensation that they have been affected.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We have given compensation only in respect of 1118 damages. We have not received complaints. For this year, the assessment has not been made yet.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* What will be the probable yield in those parts?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have not got the exact figure. I want notice.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur-Rural):* Three-fold?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The same yield is not found in all the fields.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mrs. Thankamma N. Menon *(Ernakulam-Womens)*: Have any representations been received that the compensations fixed may be reviewed ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No, I said that already.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the pumping operations were not started about the middle of Thulam ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know when it was started ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: By the 25th of Dhanu.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: That is, earlier than the harvest or after it ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer)*: The harvest was over in some fields, and in some small fields the harvesting was not just finished.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know if the Government conducted any enquiry whether by the pumping process this area of mundakan crop has been affected prejudicially ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Enquiries were made, even personal inspections were made.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: And what is the result ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The result is that there was no damage at all.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhnthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Who conducted the enquiry, may I know ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I have myself gone to the place and enquiries were made by the Tahsildar and the Assistant Engineer and also by the village officers.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Have Government received petitions from the cultivators, the owners of lands, to get compensation in kind.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachadra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Was that considered ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It is not possible, becaus the compensation is to be given in money according to law.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: In the light of the previous answer, may I know whether Rs 25,000 provided is not meant for payment of compensation for the kole lands only, *i. e.*, for 608·07 acres?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No assessment has yet been made. We have simply estimated the amount at Rs. 25,000. It may go a little higher or it may go a little lower.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: According to the Government, no mundakan land has been affected prejudicially as per the Diwan Peishkar's enquiry. What I want to know is whether this estimated cost of Rs. 25,000 is not the compensation proposed to be paid upon this 608·07 acres of kole lands only.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I have stated already that this amount is only provisional. So far as the mundakan crop which is said to be affected, we are reconsidering the matter.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I remind the Government of the answer that the compensation is based on the opinion of the revenue officers. May I know whether those revenue officers are still there ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: We have got the record of enquiry about these lands made previously by these officers when they made recommendations for the scheme. There was a report by the then revenue officers saying that the approximate average yield of the land was so much.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I am sorry my question was not properly understood. I understood the Hon'ble the Revenue Member as saying that the compensation is assessed, since crops are not standing, nor are they cultivated, on the information furnished by the revenue officers who have seen them in the past are taken into consideration. My humble question is whether those revenue officers are in service today.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Who those officers are, I am not in a position at present to say.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: In the absence of an agreement between the Diwan Peishkar and the parties, the matter can be referred to a court of law for adjudication. The Diwan Peishkar is not the final judge. Under section 34 they can have the matter adjudicated upon in a Court of law.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: I fully appreciate the answer given, but my humble submission was, as far as possible the parties may not be made to go to the court; it will be more advisable for the Government to save these parties from litigation.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: As far as possible.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: With reference to the answer that you are not paying in kind, but only paying in money, what is the rate for a para of paddy?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The rate allowed by Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know, whether the Government have any idea of the extent of the mundakan land by the side of this submerged area—the extent in acreage?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peshkar)*: I cannot say definitely.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know, whether it is not the rule that the market rate is to be paid?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The present market rate is the controlled rate.

FOOD SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT—AMOUNT SPENT

92. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what is the total amount spent in the Food Supply Department at the end of Karkadagam 1118;

(*b*) have the accounts of 1118 in the department been audited;

(*c*) what is the result of the audit?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)*:

			Rs.
(*a*)	Advances	.. ..	2,78,51,519
	Service head	.. ..	1,67,789
	Total	..	2,80,19,308

(*b*) The audit of the accounts of 1118 is in progress.

(*c*) The results can be given only after the audit is complete.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether any special staff for the audit has been appointed?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Yes, Sir.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: What is its strength?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Its strength consists of a Special Audit Officer, 6 auditors and one Peon.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: When was this audit started?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It was started somewhere in Kumbham 1118.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: When this Department was first instituted was not the system of simultaneous audit applied to this Department also as in other Departments.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What steps were taken to conduct a simultaneous audit?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: The rules were prescribed and necessary instructions were given and the audit of the offices of the Assistant Supply Officers was taken up and continued.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Then what is the difficulty of finishing the audit?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: That was explained during the budget speech and in fact we have completed a preliminary audit of 1118. That disclosed certain irregularities which had to be set right. These irregularities are being set right after which a final audit is to be done. That is what is now said to be in full progress.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Was not the audit going on from day to day and month to month.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts)*: It is not a qestion of going on from day to day. There is the central audit in my Office. That is being done from month to month. In the case of the offices of the various Assistant Supply Officers, the Depots and the Central Office we take them up only periodically.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: What is the extent of the amount that has been budgetted for this Department.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly